



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/900,769	07/06/2001	Yuji Akimoto	Komatsu C-246	7695

7590 06/19/2003
FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.
2026 Rambling Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1699

EXAMINER

ANTHONY, JOSEPH DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1714

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/900,769

Applicant(s)

AKIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph D. Anthony

Art Unit

1714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 & 103

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 1714

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zastrow et al. WO 95/03061 or Zastrow et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,919,490 or Zastrow et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,800,835.

All three Zastrow et al references teach preparations for improving blood circulation of the skin by applying to the skin a composition that comprises in part: finely divided magnetically hard single-domain particles having a particle size range of between 600 to 1200 nm (i.e. 0.6 μm to 1.2 μm), see abstracts. The phrase "single domain particles" is defined by each reference as meaning "single crystals of naturally uniform magnetic orientation", see column 1, lines 62-65 of the 5,919,490 reference. The preferred finely divided magnetically hard single-domain particles having a particle size range of between 600 to 1200 nm are **barium or strontium hexaferrites**, see column 1, line 65 to column 2, line 1 of the 5,919,490 reference. It is held by the examiner that these finely divided magnetically hard single-domain ferrite particles having a particle size range of between 600 to 1200 nm are spherical in shape and thus anticipate applicants' claims. Applicant's claims are thus anticipated over the finely divided magnetically hard single-domain ferrite particles taught by the references examples prior to their admixture with other components to form the topical skin compositions. Applicants' claimed method step, of claim 3, wherein the ferrite fine powder is obtained by spray pyrolysis is given little weight since the claims are drawn to a product and not to a method of making the product.

Art Unit: 1714

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP Patent Application 9-169523.

JP has been described by applicants on page 3 of their specification. After describing the subject matter of JP which the examiner has determined teaches or anticipates applicants claims, applicant's makes a conclusion statement that JP does not teach spherical, single-crystal fine powder with a mean particle size of 0.1 to 30 um. The examiner begs to differ.

5. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golz-Berner et al. U.S. Patent Number 6,309,627.

Golz-Berner et al teaches cosmetic composition with agglomerated substrates. The composition comprise in part: spherical nonporous silicon dioxide and other inorganic particle-shaped materials with spherical structure, see abstract. The other inorganic particle-shaped materials with spherical structure are taught to include magnetically hard single-grade particles (single-crystals) made from barium hexaferrite or strontium hexaferrite with a high coercive field intensity of 4,000 to 5,000 Oersted according to WO 95/03061, see column 2, lines 25-33. Please note that WO 95/03061 is the Zastrow et al reference applied above. Golz-Berner et al differs from applicants' claimed invention only in that there is no direct teaching (i.e. by way of an example) to where a barium hexaferrite or strontium hexaferrite according to WO 95/03061 is actually used. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the disclosure of Golz-

Art Unit: 1714

Berner et al as motivation to actually use a barium hexaferrite or strontium hexaferrite according to WO 95/03061 as the other spherical shaped inorganic particle since such is directly suggested by the reference at column 2, lines 25-33.

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 1-4 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9-12 of copending Application No. 10/158,570. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the pending claims of 09/900,769 are deemed to be a subset of the 10/158,570 claims.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

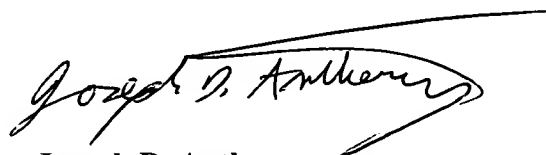
Art Unit: 1714

Prior-Art Cited But Not Applied

8. Any prior-art reference which is cited on FORM PTO-892 but not applied, is cited only to show the general state of the prior-art at the time of applicant's invention.

Examiner Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Joseph D. Anthony whose telephone number is (703) 308-0446. This examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:35 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the eastern time zone. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on (703) 306-2777. The group (**non-after final**) FAX machine number is (703) 872-9310. The group (**after final**) FAX machine number is (703) 872-9311. Unofficial correspondence transmitted by FAX must be marked "DRAFT". All other papers received by FAX will be treated as Official communications and cannot be immediately handled by the Examiner. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651. The receptionist is located on the 8th floor of Crystal Plaza 3 (e.g. CP-3) and will be the welcome point for all visitors to the building.



**Joseph D. Anthony
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1714**

6/7/03